

Shame on the minority for failing to understand these principles.

#### MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to take strong exception to the right wing attack on Medicare. The drastic and mean spirited cuts Republicans propose will devastate the health care system and severely jeopardize access to health care for the elderly in my district and around the Nation.

Lets be clear about what is going on here. Republicans want to cut Medicare not to save the trust fund but to finance back door deals with wealthy doctors, special interest groups and rich corporations.

The issue of whether we should slash Medicare is simply a question of values. Are we going to bankrupt the elderly? Are we going to kick seniors out of nursing homes in order to finance a tax break for the rich?

I believe that to do so would be immoral, unfair, and just plain cruel.

Mr. Speaker, here is a letter that a Republican constituent wrote to me. She said:

Cuts in Medicare will be devastating and these cuts are unacceptable. We the people, put the Republicans where they are today and we will be sure to take them out if we are not represented.

I include the entire letter for the RECORD.

OCTOBER 17, 1995.

Re Republican Medicare Bill.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: I cannot even begin to put into words the seriousness of the repercussions of this proposal.

The effect of this bill will be devastating to my local hospital and nursing home.

The projected loss of future revenues for my local facility and nursing home seems incomprehensible to me: \$14.2 million over 7 years! In addition, the projected loss of jobs in this area being at 3,500 is not tolerable.

This program will shift enormous funding to me a property owner in Wyoming County because the hospital is county-owned. The tax burden will increase an estimated 28 percent. This is not acceptable.

This legislation threatens the survival of my hospital and the future jobs of my neighbors. I understand the Speaker of the House needs to retain his parties support but we, the people, put the Republicans where they are today and will be sure to take them out if we, the voters, are not represented.

CYNTHIA TINKER,  
Warsaw, NY.

#### PRESERVE AND PROTECT MEDICARE

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, not since Mother's Day have Democrat mommas across America gotten so much attention.

But what are Democrats' sons and daughters telling them? It is a nostalgic piece of Chicken Little, "The Sky Is Falling." Yes, with creativity of Steven Spielberg, they are story-telling.

They should remember this one: Two mothers, two women were fighting over the same baby. The wise King Solomon pulled out a sword and said, "Cut the child in half." One would-be mother said, "Fine." The other one said, "No, never." Love is stronger. Love of a parent deserves love of a child.

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What a different bill we would have today if the Democrats would follow the example of love. The love of a Mother Theresa rather than the terror of a Stephen King. If the Democrats criticism energy were spent coming to the table rather than launching grenades at those who sit at the table, what a better bill we would have. It is time to put love of parents and love of seniors above love of politics and partisanship.

Mr. Speaker, let us do the right think to do: Reform, protect, and preserve Medicare.

#### PAY MORE, GET LESS PLAN

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, let me take the gentleman to a little different part of his Bible. There is a part called honor thy father and thy mother, and I do not find anything honorable about this Republican pay more, get less plan. That is what it is.

Of course, not everybody is unhappy with it. You see, while it gives a swift kick to seniors, those who bought into the plan get a mighty big kickback. Even the Republicans' own staffers say yes, taxpayers are going to have to fork over an extra \$1 billion because of the repeal and weakening of antikickback provisions in this bill. The pharmaceutical companies settled for only \$100 billion by the Republican plan to repeal the discount for pharmaceuticals at public hospitals.

Yes, it is very difficult for the Republicans to talk about being antifraud when there is so much fraud in this plan. We only need to turn to this morning's newspaper to see that they are saying House Republicans today open literally a vote trading bazaar. Speaker NEWT GINGRICH cheerfully described the bargaining as "a little bit like Christmas shopping." Well, there are a lot of mothers and fathers in America who have nothing to be cheered about and much to worry about when it comes Christmas shopping time.

#### H.R. 2425 PROTECTS MEDICARE

(Mr. HANCOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HANCOCK. Mr. Speaker, I have been hearing a lot of conversations the past several years, but I am 66 years old. Here is my Medicare card. I am voluntarily leaving the Congress at the end of this term, and I frankly have a very vested interest in the preservation of Medicare. I want the choice for my future medical care given to me in this Medicare bill.

This bill is good for senior citizens, it is good for the working people who are paying the payroll taxes to guarantee the Medicare, to pay for Medicare. It preserves, protects, and it saves Medicare. Within a year from now, I guess I will be full-time on the Medicare bill, after I leave the Congress.

#### SYMBOLISM SPEAKS LOUDER THAN RHETORIC

(Mr. KLINK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, as we head down a road as historical as the one that we are encountering today, symbolism becomes very important. It is an important symbol as we note that exactly the same moment that we are debating and voting on a \$270 billion cut in Medicare in the other Chamber, the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services is debating and voting out a \$245 billion tax giveaway by the Republicans.

Our Republicans say one has nothing to do with the other. But the symbolism of the moment is they take place at exactly the same time in both houses of this great Congress. There is no quid pro quo, no tit for tat. I think the symbolism speaks otherwise.

It is also important to note that another new version of this bill came out of the Committee on Rules last night that no Member of the House has had an opportunity to read the 900-plus pages. By the way, we started a few days ago with a bill that was 421 pages, it grew and grew until finally now 10 days later it is almost 1,000 pages, and not one hearing has been held on any version of this legislation.

Ladies and gentlemen, symbolism speaks louder than the Republican rhetoric.

#### FACT OVER FICTION

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, they shall not bear false witness—that is what the Democrats have been doing on this Medicare issue. Republicans have a plan to save Medicare. Republicans have a good plan to save Medicare. We want America to see our plan. We aren't afraid to show the American people what we're trying to do, because what we are doing is saving the single most important entitlement program